Planning Strategies for Bikes and Open Space

2007 APRA Conference on Open Space
May 9, 2007
A Unique Perspective

- Planner/Land Manager
- Bicycle Retailer
- Cyclist
- Cycling Advocate
Challenges

• Population growth statewide-double by 2030

• Pinal County est. Population in 2025-750,000 to 1.2 mil

• User group conflicts
Opportunities for Success

- Plan-early and often
- Consistent Message
- Persistence
Six Key Focus Points

- Access
  - “90% of what we bought was preservation of the view; I’ll bet less than 10% of the public will ever (hike) on it.”

- Connectivity

- Multi use, non motorized
Health Benefits

- One in three Americans is obese, at least 64 percent are overweight.
- 16 percent of children 6-19 are considered overweight.
- $78.5 Billion estimated expense for health issues related to obesity in 2002.
Economic Benefits

- Property values increase with proximity to trails and open space.
- Open space and trails can spur economic activity through the attraction of businesses, retirees and knowledge based workers.
- Well protected open space has more economic development value than less protected open space.
Advocacy

- Local level
- Build Partnerships
- State/National Level
“The nicest thing about not planning is that failure comes as a complete surprise ….”

Sir John Harvey-Jones
Thank You

Questions?

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